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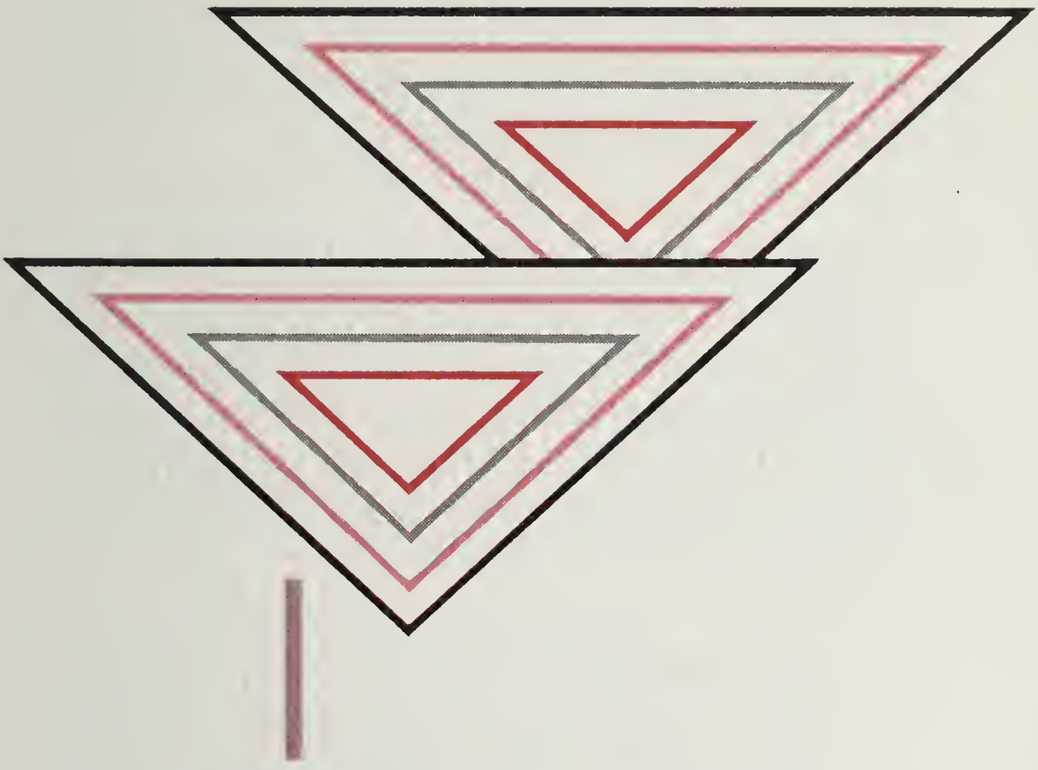

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
COORDINATING UNIT

VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
RAY PAGE, Superintendent

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LEGAL BASIS

In June, 1965, the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 1407. It provides for an educational materials coordinating unit.

> "Sec. 14-11.01. Educational materials coordinating unit. There shall be established within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction under the direction of the Superintendent, an educational materials coordinating unit for handicapped children to provide:
>
> (1) Staff and resources for the coordinating, cataloging, standardizing, production, procurement, storage, and distribution of educational materials needed by visually handicapped children and adults . . .
>
> "The educational materials coordinating unit shall have as its major purpose the improvement of instructional programs for handicapped children and the in-service training of all professional personnel associated with programs of special education . . ." (The School Code of Illinois)

In June, 1966, the U.S. Office of Education approved a three-year research and demonstration project which will supplement the State legislation. The project funded under Public Law 88-164 will enable the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to demonstrate to the nation how a State agency can provide and disseminate educational materials to visually handicapped children and adults. It will also provide a professional library.

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ELIGIBILITY

Blind and partially seeing individuals are eligible to receive materials from the center. "Partially seeing" is defined as a visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after correction. Physically handicapped persons, including those persons who are severely perceptually handicapped or might otherwise need materials now available to blind and visually handicapped children and adults, may also be served.

An individual is declared eligible if he is enrolled in a special program for the visually handicapped or has an ocular report on file with the center. Ocular forms can be secured from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Professional personnel working with the visually handicapped may avail themselves of the specialized library and services of the staff of the center.

HOW TO REQUEST MATERIALS

Requests for materials for visually handicapped students in elementary and secondary schools should be initiated by the superintendent of the local school district or a person designated by him. College students and other adults may request educational materials directly after eligibility has been determined. Orders should be written on the proper forms provided by the center and submitted to:

Educational Materials Coordinating Unit
Visually Handicapped
Office of the Superintendent of
Public Instruction
410 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605

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LOCATION OF THE COORDINATING UNIT

The Educational Materials Coordinating Unit for visually handicapped children and adults is located at 410 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. When fully operative, it will serve as a clearinghouse of information, lending library of educational and professional materials and will include a central card catalog for all specially adapted materials for the visually handicapped in the State of Illinois. It will also provide a display center where new educational media may be examined and borrowed for short-term evaluative periods.

THE COORDINATING UNIT WILL:

1. Cooperate with specialists and district superintendents in providing materials.
2. Produce specialized materials.
3. Contract with volunteer agencies for the production of materials not commercially available.
4. Maintain a system of certification for volunteer producers of educational materials for the visually handicapped.
5. Provide in-service training for personnel working with the visually handicapped.
6. Display and demonstrate educational materials.
7. Field test existing materials and create new materials.
8. Provide centralized acquisition and technical processing of materials.

NETWORK OF CENTERS

This service extended to the visually handicapped is only a part of the total program offered by the educational materials coordinating unit. As a research and demonstration center, it is a member of the national Instructional Materials Center Network for Handicapped Children and Youth. It is operating as a project funded in part by the U.S. Office of Education under Title III of Public Law 88-164.

Miss Gloria Calovini
Director
Educational Materials Coordinating Unit
316 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Educational Materials Coordinating Unit
Visually Handicapped
410 South Michigan Avenue
Suite 401
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Mrs. Rita Braxton
Librarian

Mr. Ray McHatton
Field Representative

Miss Helen Gibbons
Materials Supervisor

Ray Page
Superintendent of Public Instruction
316 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

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